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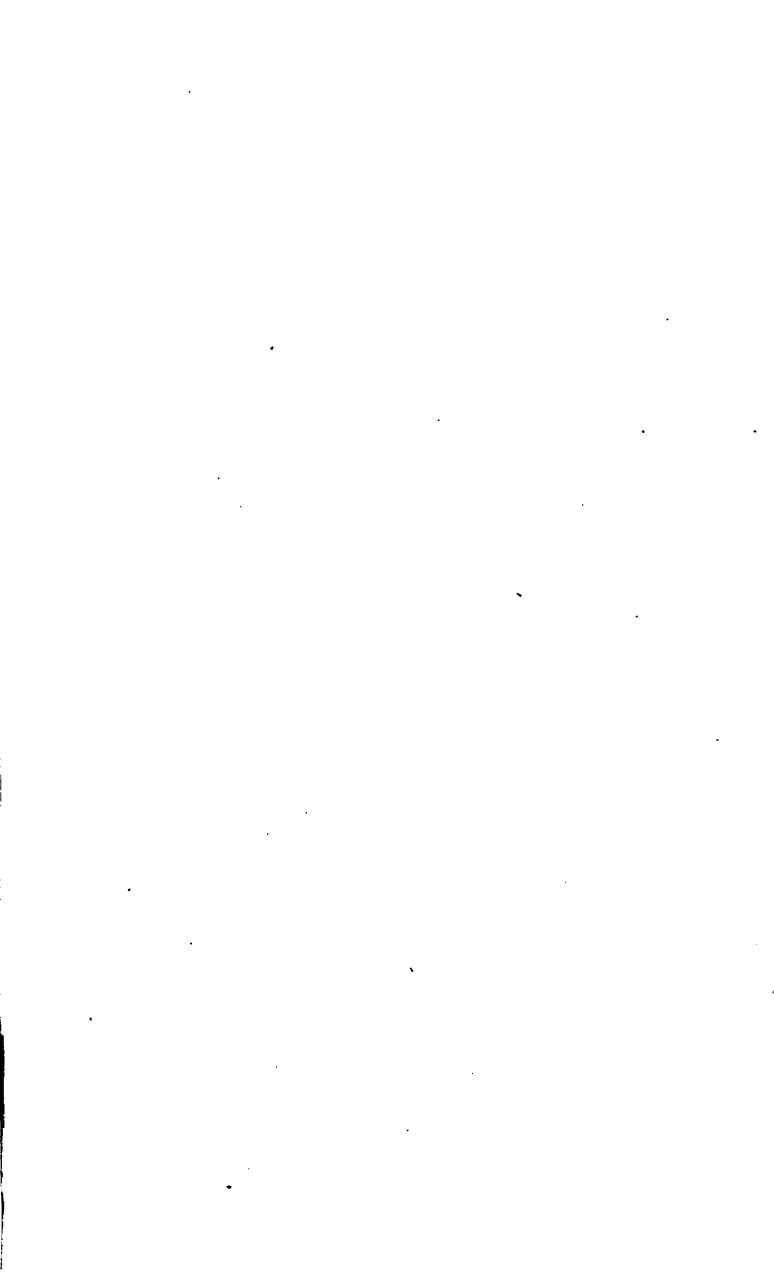
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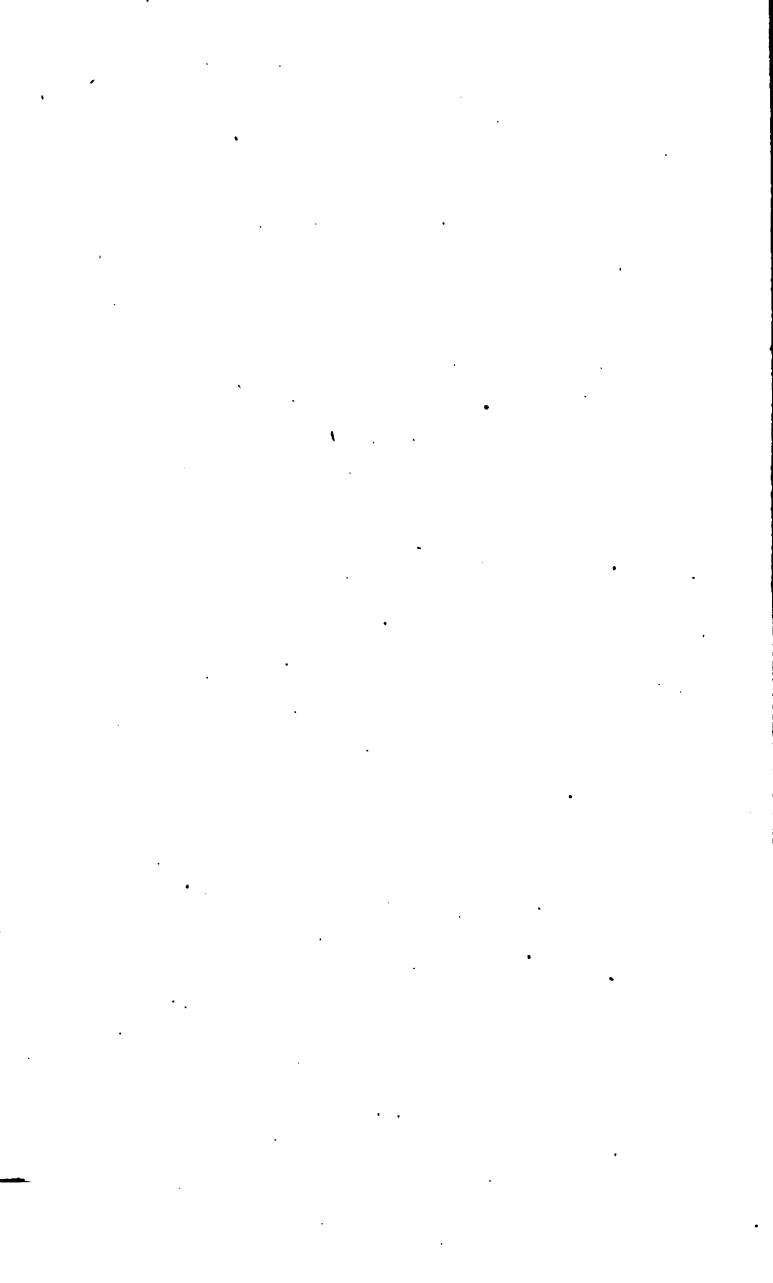
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G. Wyatt

London

July 1st 1791

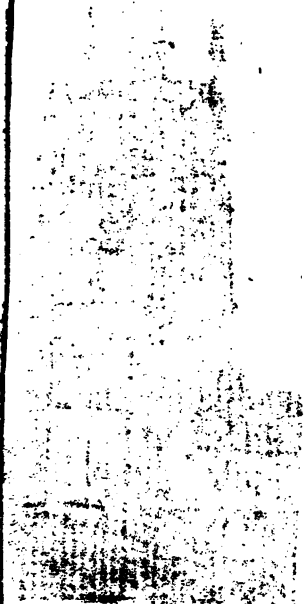
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1. Bec-Hellouin, France
(Benedictine abbey)



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(Benedictine abbey)



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Becc was built
middle of the 13th cen.
see page 107
to see the Title.



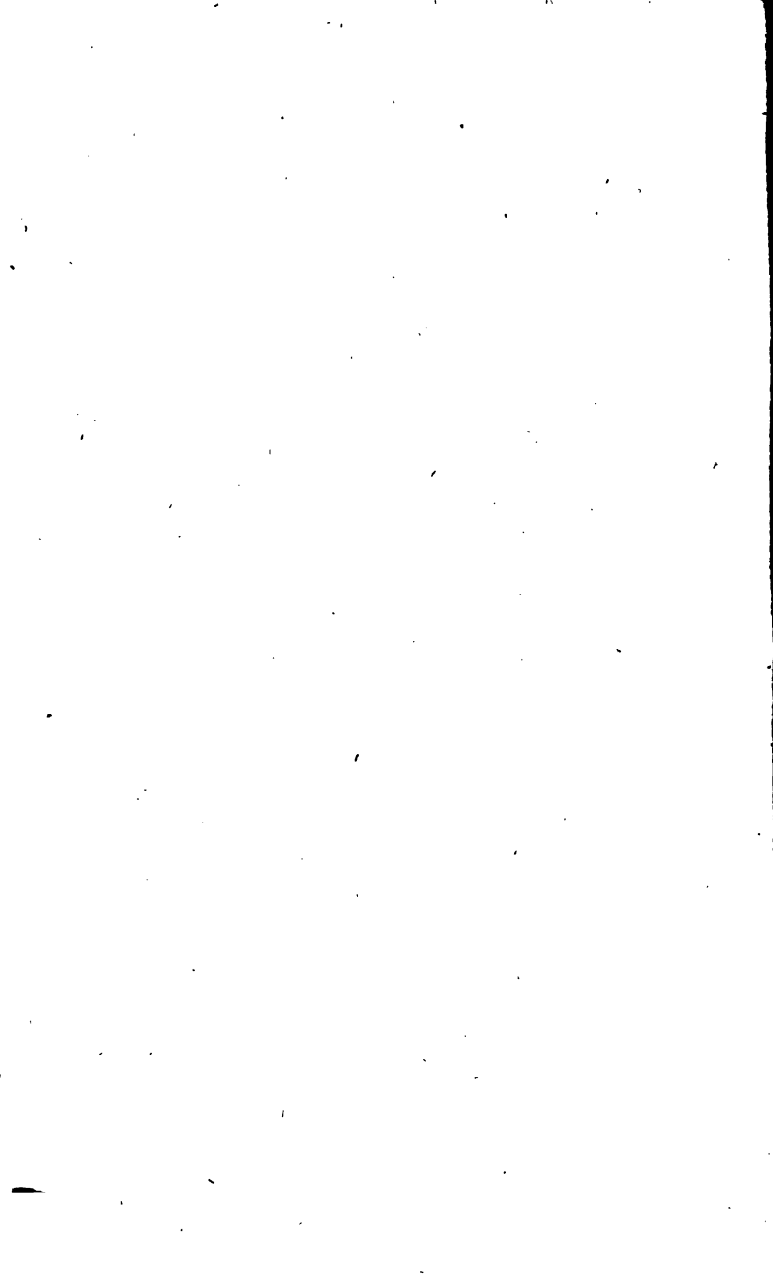
Donny for

BECC in Normandy.



THE
H I S T O R Y
OF THE ROYAL
A B B E Y O F B E C.





THE
HISTORY
OF THE ROYAL
ABBAY OF BEC,
NEAR ROUEN IN NORMANDY.

BY
DOM. JOHN BOURGET,
BENEDICTINE MONK of the Congregation
of ST. MAUR in the said HOUSE, and
Fellow of the Society of ANTIQUARIES
of LONDON.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

LONDON,
Printed for J. NICHOLS:
And sold by H. PAYNE, Pall-mall; and
N. CONANT, in Fleet-street.
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DOM. JOHN BOURGET, the author of this history, sprung from an ancient family of good repute in the neighbourhood of Rouen, where his brother, an eminent merchant, now resides.

He was born at the village of Beaumais near Falaise in the diocese of Seez, in the year 1724. He was educated at the Grammar-school at Caen, whence he was removed to that University, and pursued his studies with great diligence and success till the year 1745, when he became a Benedictine Monk of the abbey of St. Martin de Seez, then *en regle*, that is, under the direction of a conventual abbot.

Some time after this, Dom. Bourget was appointed Prior Claustral of the said abbey, and continued six years

Essex & Son Co. - Oct 1st 1846

vi ADVERTISEMENT.

in that office, when he was nominated Prior of Tiron en Perche : whence being translated to the abbey of St. Stephen at Caen, in the capacity of Sub-prior, he managed the temporalities of that religious house during two years, as he did their spiritualities for one year longer ; after which, according to the custom of the house, he resigned his office.

His Superiors, sensible of his merit and learning, removed him thence to the abbey of Bec, where he resided till 1764. He was elected an Honorary Member of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Jan. 10, 1765 ; in which year he returned to the abbey of St. Stephen at Caen, where he continued to the time of his death.

These honourable offices, to which he was promoted on account of his
great

ADVERTISEMENT. vii

great abilities, enabled him not only to pursue his favourite study of the History and Antiquities of some of the principal Benedictine abbies in Normandy, but likewise gave him access to all their Charters, Deeds, Register-Books, &c. &c. These he examined with great care, and left behind him in MS. large and accurate accounts of the abbies of St. Peter de Jumieges*, St. Stephen, and the Holy Trinity at Caen (founded by William the Conqueror and his Queen Matilda), and a very particular History of the abbey of Bec.

These were all written in French; and this tract (which he presented to Dr. Ducarel in 1764) is only an

* To the Monks in general, but particularly to those of the abbey of Jumieges, is owing the draining of the fens of Upper Normandy, and the cultivation of many large tracts of land which had long lain neglected.

viii ADVERTISEMENT.

abstract of his History of the said abbey of Bec (which hath produced several archbishops of Canterbury, and other illustrious prelates of this kingdom) so frequently mentioned by our old historians.

The death of this worthy Benedictine (which happened on New-year's day 1776) was occasioned by his unfortunate neglect of a hurt he got in his leg by falling down two or three steps in going from the hall to the cloister of the Abbey of St. Stephen at Caen, being deceived by the ambiguous feeble light of a glimmering and dying lamp that was placed in that passage. He lived universally esteemed, and died sincerely regretted by all those who were acquainted with him; and was buried in the church of the said abbey, on the 3d of January 1776.

April 5, 1779.

J. N.

[1]

T H E

H I S T O R Y

O F

THE ABBEY OF BEC.

THE monastery of Le Bec Hellouin, or Helluin, situate in Le Roumois, between Lieuvain and the plain of Neufmoury, nine leagues from the capital of Normandy, may justly be considered as one of the most considerable in the kingdom. It stands in a very narrow valley, enclosed between two mountains, which rise to the height of near two hundred feet. From the foot of one of these mountains, on the North side, issues a considerable

B

erable

nable stream, which washes this valley, and gives name to the monastery.

The choir of the church facing the East is one of the finest pieces of workmanship of the thirteenth century, both for its architecture, and the variety of marbles with which it is adorned.

The nave is too short to deserve that name, consisting only of two arches.

The park, which extends S. and W. along the slope of the hill, and bounds on this side the regular enclosure, was anciently very extensive, and still shews considerable foundations of walls which enclose it. On the North is the village of Bec, which belongs to the monastery.

Helluin, son of Angot and Hellois, was the founder of this house. He was a person of great piety, and descended from the Danes, who, issuing from
the

the North, had over-run Normandy like a torrent, and made themselves masters of this province, which, before the invasion of these people, was called Neustria. He was also allied to the dukes of Flanders.

Helluin at first chose a military life. His valour and his noble birth recommended him to Robert Duke of Normandy; but, growing tired of the world, he formed, at the age of forty, the generous resolution of renouncing all for God.

For this purpose he went to Herbert bishop of Lisieux, who gave him the monastic habit in 1034, ordained him priest and abbot of this monastery, which he built the same year on his paternal estate at Bonneville, formerly called

4 THE HISTORY OF

Hurleville. He finished it in a year's time, and in 1035 caused his church to be dedicated to the Virgin Mary by the same Herbert who had ordained him. He endowed his monastery with lands, which he possessed at Bonneville, Tavilé, Surcé, Sarné, &c.

Five years after, seeing that the want of water rendered the situation of his monastery inconvenient, he determined to build another in the valley on the rivulet of Bec. As the number of persons who put themselves under his discipline increased every day, this new house was soon found to be too small; and part of his church, wherein was a chapel dedicated to St. Benedict, fell down. Upon this, Lanfranc, whom he had appointed prior, persuaded him

to build a larger and a stronger one at a greater distance, but on higher ground. This he did in 1061. All the apartments were finished in three years. But what remained of the church served till 1077, when the new church was compleated.

The same year, October 22, the religious went in procession from the old church to the new. Lanfranc, who from prior of Bec had been raised to the rank of first abbat of St. Stephen at Caen, and successively placed on the archiepiscopal throne at Canterbury, dedicated the church the same day to the Blessed Virgin. Odo bishop of Bayeux, Gilbert of Evreux, Gilbert of Lisieux, Robert of Sees, Ernaud of Mons, accompanied by a great number of persons of distinction both of France,

B 3 England,

England, and Normandy, assisted at this ceremony, and made great presents to the church.

As to the rule which Helluin profess, it is certain that it was that of St. Benedict. This appears by the decrees which Lanfranc made for the Order of St. Benedict, and by many letters of St. Anselm address'd to the monks of Bec; among others, by the seventh of the third book, where he says, that he recommends them to their father St. Benedict, whose rule they possess. *Beato Benedicto secundum cujus regulam professi estis vos commendo.*

Bec was already become very considerable. Lanfranc, who was accounted one of the best scholars of his time, had established there a school, which subsisted a long time after him, and
from

THE ABBEY OF BEC. 7

from whence came forth many eminent luminaries of the church. Numbers of all ranks and conditions prest eagerly to serve God under the direction of Helluin. Among the rest William Girouis *, who restored the monastery of

* William Girouis repaired the church of St. Evroult only in part, put in two secular priests to celebrate there, and gave it to abbat Helluin, under whom he had commenced religious; so that from an abbey it became only a priory to Bec. Robert and Hugh his nephews, sons of Hadewise his sister, built a monastery at Noyers, now called Noyers Menard, and came to Bec, to consult their uncle, who dissuaded them from their design, and advised them to re-build that of St. Evroult, which they did, and to withdraw it from its dependance on Bec: they gave the latter the fair estate of Rofiere or Rouffieres, and by this means the monastery of St. Evroult received the title of abbey. They placed there monks of Jumieges. Robert turned monk, and was the second abbat; but Hugh remained in the world, and if he took the monastic order,

of St. Evroult in the Pais d'Ouche between the towns of Sees and Bernay; his two nephews Hugh and Robert de Granmenil, William Crespin and his nephew Gilbert, descended from one of the most illustrious families of Normandy; Lanfranc, born at Pavia in Italy, and Anselm, born at Aoste in Piedmont, both distinguished by their noble birth, their knowledge, and their piety.

The revenues with which Helluin had endowed his monastery not being

order, as many have asserted without good authority, it was only *in articulo mortis*, without making his vows. Accordingly he is represented in the windows of the chapel of St. Mary in the church of St. Evroult, in the habit of a knight. I know not therefore why a MS. of Bec recites them among the monks of this house, where it is certain that they did not even wear the habit.

sufficient,

sufficient, the dukes of Normandy, and divers other persons of distinction, bestowed on it many considerable estates. Among those who became monks, many brought with them large possessions. The popes, the bishops, the kings of France and England, granted it many privileges. To proceed more regularly, I shall enumerate in order those granted by Helluin, and those which his successors obtained.

William I. surnamed *de bonne Ame*, Archbishop of Rouen, with the consent of his chapter, granted exemption from all episcopal rights; and ordered, that the parish should be subject to the monastery, on condition, that, when the abbat should be invited by the archbishop to assist
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at the service of the cathedral on the day of its dedication, he should be obliged to assist there; to preside in the choir if the archbishop celebrates mass, or to celebrate it in his room if he be absent. This privilege was afterwards confirmed by many archbishops of Rouen; among the rest, by Huguez in 1141, Rotrou in 1182, Odo in 1245, and Francis gave his consent in 1634.

The popes confirmed this exemption, as well as the other privileges and donations granted to Bec by the several kings, princes, and other persons of consequence. This appears by the bulls of Calixtus II, 1123; Lucius II, 1182; Celestine III, 1196; Innocent III, 1210; Honorius III, 1223; Urban IV, 1262; Clement IV, 1267; Gregory

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The archbishop of Rouen, the bishops of Evreux, Lisieux, Bayeux, and Chartres, ordered also, that all the churches and lands belonging to Bec, in their respective dioceses, should be exempt from all ecclesiastical right: and, that the monks might not hereafter be disturbed in the enjoyment of these privileges, they were confirmed by the kings of France; Philip II, 1191, 1200, 1204; Louis IX, 1239, 1262; Philip III, 1276; Philip IV, 1328; Charles VII, 1420; Louis XI, 1471; Francis I, 1517; Henry IV, 1596; by the kings of England, Henry I, 1125; Henry II, John, 1204; Henry III, 1229; and

and by William, Stephen, Richard, and Edward.

In 1389 the pope granted to the abbots the ring and other pontifical ornaments, with the right of giving the solemn benediction, not only in the church of Bec, but also in others not fully subject to it, with power to confer the tonsure.

Besides these spiritual privileges granted by popes and bishops, and confirmed by royal authority, Bec received further marks of favour from the kings of France and England, the dukes of Normandy, and many other lords, who either gave lands to this house, or confirmed such donations. Besides many noble possessions, of which the principal are the baronies of Bec, Bonneville, Marbœuf, Pleffis, Bec has also

also subject to it 160 parishes, with right of patronage, tithes, and lordships, in most of them. The principal are those of St. John and St. Gervase at Paris, St. Severe at Rouen, St. Andrew at Bec, St. Peter at Montfort, St. Nicolas at Meulan, St. Peter at Pontoise, Notre Dame at Orbec, St. James in the island of St. Nicaise, &c. It has also dependant on it eighteen very considerable parishes, and sixteen chapels, the principal of which is in the cathedral at Paris.

Two free fairs are held in the town of Bec yearly, one on St. Andrew's day, Nov. 30, the other on Good Friday; and a market every Friday in the year. In the barony of Bec is a bailliage with haute and basse justice.

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In 1337, Philip IV. king of France, gave to Bec, and to all persons dependant on it, the privilege of holding immediately and directly of the crown, and of transporting, selling, and buying goods all over his kingdom, duty-free.

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Helluin had the satisfaction to see the number of his disciples amount to near 100, and the joy to see a surprising number of them called forth to the dignity of bishops, abbots, or to fill monasteries which the piety of the faithful raised both in France and England, and made subject to that of Bec. From these has been formed an order, of which Bec is the capital,
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and whence all the priories, even in foreign parts, dependant thereon, were obliged to come, to assist at the general chapter, and give an account of their houses, both with regard to spiritual and temporal matters; and their priors were changed at the will of the chapter or the abbots.

At length Helluin, full of days and good works, resigned his soul to God, August 21, 1078, aged 84 years, having spent 44 of them in the monastery, of which himself had laid the foundation. He was buried in the chapter-house, which some think was of his building in its present state. But this does not agree with the following passage in a chronicle, at the end of Abp. Lanfranc's works, *Anno Domini* 1146, *inceptum est capitulum monasterii Beccensis*

Beccensis ecclesiæ pridie calendar. Augusti præsentæ piæ memoriæ domino Letardo ipsius loci abbate.

His body was interred in the middle of the chapter-house, under a tomb of black marble, to which the religious of the congregation of St Maur, in 1714, substituted another of beautiful white marble, supported by six little pillars of jasper, about a foot and a half high; and the following epitaph was engraven on this tomb:

Hic

THE ABBEY OF BEC. 17

Hic jacet

Primus hujusce monasterii Conditor & Abbas

Venerabilis Herluinus,

Primariæ inter Normannos nobilitatis,

Patre Ansgoto, matre Heloide, in pago Brionensi natus,

Inter armorum strepitus summa cum laude

Inter aulae illecebras summa cum integritate versatus,

Abjecto militiæ sæcularis paludamento,

Christo deinceps militaturus,

Ab Herberto Lexoviensi episcopo habitu monastico
induitur;

Et ut Christum haberet hereditatem

Bonorum suorum Christum instituit heredem.

Quos agros quondam possederat dives,

Hos coluit pauper, coluit & jejunus,

Ut cibus fieret pauperum,

Et laborantis fudor & fames jejunantis.

Labores diurnos nocturnis levabat precibus,

Ut cum virtutum studiis studia litterarum conjungeret

Litteras quadragenarius discere non erubuit;

Et Beccensi monasterio litterarium aperuit gymnasium,

In quo paternæ pietates alumnos & hæredes,

Ecclesiarum præfules candidatos

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Ad omne virtutis officium suis informabat exemplis,

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————— | —————
Patri de se optime merito

Æternum hoc pietatis monumentum P. P.

Monachi Beccenses congregationis S. Mauri

Anno D. MDCCXIV.

N. B. See this epitaph in Dr. Ducarel's Norman Antiq. p. 90.

The life of Helluin has been written by Gilbert de Crépîn, monk of Bec, a learned man, and afterwards abbat of Westminster. He was succeeded by ANSELM, who was born of noble parents at Aost or Aoust, a city of Piedmont, at the foot of the Alps. His father's name was Gondulphus, and his mother's Ermenberga. He was a man of the purest morals, had a good genius, and a surprising talent of speaking. The reputation of Lanfranc, who was then prior of Bec, and gave lectures in philosophy there, led him to hear him. He spent three years there, at the end of which he took the monastic habit at the age of twenty-seven. He made such a progress towards religious perfection, that three years after he was advanced to the rank of prior in the room of Lanfranc,
 who

THE ABBEY OF BÈC. 19

who was chosen the first abbat of St. Stephen at Caen. During the fifteen years that Anselm spent in this office, he composed many works. On the death of Helluin, he was chosen abbat in his room; but it was not without much reluctance that he submitted to his advancement. Gilbert, bishop of Evreux, gave him his benediction in the church of Bèc. He governed this house fifteen years, during which he wrote many pieces. At his solicitation William de Bonne, once archbishop of Rouen, granted the exemption already mentioned.

Anselm being obliged to go to England, to manage the affairs of his monastery, he discovered such knowledge and prudence, as occasioned his being chosen by the bishops of that kingdom, where real merit is so justly

at the service of the cathedral on the day of its dedication, he should be obliged to assist there; to preside in the choir if the archbishop celebrates mass, or to celebrate it in his room if he be absent. This privilege was afterwards confirmed by many archbishops of Rouen; among the rest, by Huguez in 1141, Rotrou in 1182, Odo in 1245, and Francis gave his consent in 1634.

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Inter aulæ illecebras summa cum integritate versatus,
Abjecto militiæ sæcularis paludamento,
Christo deinceps militaturus,
Ab Herberto Lexoviensi episcopo habitu monastico
induitur;

Et ut Christum haberet hereditatem
Bonorum suorum Christum instituit heredem.

Quos agros quondam possederat dives,
Hos coluit pauper, coluit & jejunos,
Ut cibus fieret pauperum,

Et laborantis sudor & fames jejunantis.

Labores diurnos nocturnis levabat precibus,
Ut cum virtutum studiis studia litterarum conjungeret
Litteras quadragenarius discere non erubuit;
Et Beccensi monasterio litterarium aperuit gymnasium,
In quo paternæ piefates alumnos & hæredes,

Ecclesiarum præfules candidatos

Lanfrancum, Anselmum,

Plurimosque alios sui similes discipulos,

Ad omne virtutis officium suis informabat exemplis,

Abbas virtuti simillimus,

Qui plenus operibus bonis

Mortem obiit VII Cal. Sept. An. D. MLXXIII.

æt. LXXXIII.

Patri de se optime merito

Æternum hoc pietatis monumentum P. P.

Monachi Beccenses congregationis S. Mauri

Anno D. MDCCXIV.

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Æternum hoc pietatis monumentum P. P.
 Monachi Beccenses congregationis S. Mauri
 Anno D. MDCCXIV.

N. B. See this epitaph in Dr. Ducarel's Norman Antiq. p. 90.

95 THE HISTORY OF

and eleven months, and died in 1187. His body rests in the chapter-house, at the feet of the tomb of Helluin, and this inscription is on his tomb:

Osbernus Abbas VIII.

In his room was elected ROGER, the third of that name. The prudence and wisdom which he discovered, while prior here, occasioned him to be thought worthy to be chosen abbat. He enjoyed this dignity but seven years and ten months, and died 1194.

WALTER succeeded him, a very learned man, and posselt of all the qualifications for his office. At his request Philip II. lord of Normandy, confirmed, in 1196, the rights and privileges of St. Nicaise de Meulan, a considerable

THE ABBEY OF BEC. 31

siderable priory, dependant on Bec. The following year great part of the church fell down. Walter resigned three years after his election.

His successor was HUGH, who enjoyed his new dignity but one year. He died at the priory of Notre Dame du Pré, May 16, 1108. His body was brought back to Bec, and laid in the chapter-house, at the feet of the tomb of the venerable Helluin, with this inscription :

Hugo Abbas XI.

WILLIAM filled the abbatial chair after him. In the second year of his government, Matthew earl of Meulan founded the priory of Notre Dame en Laye, and applied for some monks of Bec to serve it. William granted his request, and died 1211, thirteen years after

after his election. His body rests in in the chapter-house with this epitaph:

Alter Willermus jacet Abbas hic duodenus.

After the death of William, all the votes united in favour of RICHARD DE ST. LEGER, who received the benediction at Rouen on St. Remi's day, the same year, 1211. In 1214, he laid the foundation of a new church, and laid the first stone in the presence of the whole society, erected a nave forty paces longer than the old one, and two towers at the west front. But we find no account of its dedication. He erected several other buildings. In 1220, he gave a vineyard to the canons of Beaulieu for ever, which gave rise to a series of suits between the canons and the monks. After governing twelve years with the most consummate wisdom and prudence, he
was

was chosen bishop of Evreux, July 17, 1223; and consecrated in the church of Rouen the 17th of August following.

HENRY DE ST. LEGER succeeded him. He was a person of high birth, and on other accounts very acceptable. He was prior before his election to the abbacy, and received the benediction from Theobald archbishop of Rouen. He built a new dormitory, and brought the water into different places, to keep the abbey clean. After having sitten twenty-four years, he died; and all the priors, both French and English, who had come to Bec, to assist at a general chapter held there according to custom on the eve of St. John Baptist, assisted at his funeral.

ROBERT DE CLAIRBEC, a person of approved integrity, succeeded him.

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To

To his conciliating disposition we owe the accommodation between the monks of Bec and the canons of Beaulieu, who for some years past had been at law together.

In 1256, Louis IX. setting out on his expedition against the Saracens, came to Bec, and recommended himself to the prayers of the monks. At his return from this expedition he came again to Bec, dined in the refectory, and confirmed the rights and privileges of this house.

In 1264, a fire destroyed the greatest part of the church, after having reduced to ashes all the little town of Bec. A very considerable part of the monastic buildings likewise fell a prey to the flames; and, to complete the misfortune, the great stone tower fell
down

down on what had been rescued from the violence of the fire, and completed the destruction of the church. Robert began to repair some buildings; and died 1266, after having governed his monastery 19 years. He was buried in the chapter-house at the feet of Helluin; with this epitaph:

*Becci cænobium quindenium plange Robertum
Abbatem, cinxit te muris, teque refecit
Consumptum flammis, rebus ditavit & agris.*

JOHN, from the dignity of prior of Bec, passed quickly to that of abbat of this house. We find in a MS. that he received the benediction at Ville Dieu, a large town in Lower Normandy, in the bishopric of Avranches; and, according to the Chronicle, p. 12, he

received it at Rouen, on St. John the Evangelist's day, from Odo his archbishop. He died seven years after his election; and was buried in the chapter-house, at the head of Helluin, with this inscription:

Johannes Abbas XVI.

The same year 1273, PETER DE LA CAMBE (*Petrus de Caniba*) was chosen in his room, and received the benediction from the same archbishop Odo. From the first year of his election he laboured on the rebuilding of the church, and laid the first stone. He raised between the two angles four large pillars, which still remain to bear a tower, but which hitherto have supported only a wooden spire slated and leaded. He died 1281, and was buried in

in the chapter-house, but the precise spot is unknown. We shall mention here some verses made on the destruction of the church, which we have found written on two loose leaves of good parchment, which made part of a MS. now no longer subsisting.

L'an de grace mille deux cens
 Soixante & treizè virent yeux
 La maitre tour de Bec descendre
 Le lendemain du jour de la cendre ;
 Entour Prime fut la ruine ;
 Loeuvre deffous n'etoit pas fine ;
 Pour cela la tour se descendit,
 Tout le choeur cassa & fendit,
 De la nef une grande partie
 Cassa la tour de l'abbaye ;
 Mais Dieu mercy ce Roi cheri
 Oncques homme n'y eut peri.
 Ce fut en tems de l'abbe Pierre,
 Pour ce qu'en pierre abonda,
 Sur ferme pierre la fonda.

Peter de la Cambe had for successor YMER a learned man, well versed in the management of affairs, and a zealous defender of the rights of the order. He was prior when he was invested with the abbatial dignity. His election was confirmed at Pontoise the Tuesday after St. Andrew's day by the archbishop of Rouen, who gave him the benediction at Fresne (*apud Fraxinos*) the Sunday following, Nov. 26, 1281. He continued the church, and carried it up to the entablature. He was exact in holding annually a general chapter, in which he made many regulations for the observance of discipline and subordination.

The following year 1282, the workmen, employed to re-build the church, found the corpse of the Empress Matilda

tilda buried in an ox's hide. She had been interred before the altar of our Lady 1167.

After twenty-two years government full of wisdom, Ymer went to receive at the hand of God the reward of his virtues, Nov. 15, 1304. His body was buried in the chapter-house, at the head of Helluin, with this plain inscription:

Himerius Abbas XVIII.

On Monday Dec. 6, the same year, GILBERT, or GUILBERT, was elected abbat by way of compromise; and after having been confirmed and having received the benediction, he applied himself with the utmost diligence to re-build his church, which he had the satisfaction to finish 1327. He afterwards signalized his zeal for the common

cause in an expedition then forming against the infidels, and for this purpose gave of his own accord to the Pope a subsidy of 15000 florins for the church of Bec, and a second of 3600, for the other churches subject to him. He died in the 23d year of his government, 1327. His body rests before the altar of our Lady's chapel behind the choir under a tomb, on which are to be read these lines:

*O vos qui transitis memores mortis rogo sitis;
Quod sum vos eritis; pro me rogare velitis.*

GODFREY FARE or FAE, first of the name, and prior of Notre Dame du Pre, was elected in his room, Sept. 29, the same year 1327. Seven years after his election, he was advanced to the episcopal see of Evreux, which he

2. filled

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filled till the day of his death, April 15, 1340. He wore the monastic habit till his death. The chronicle adds, *intuentibus clarescit* (Gaufridus) *De tempore quo de abbatia ad episcopatum Ebroicensensem translatus est factum est hoc pro-verbium.*

Prend la teste d'un maquerele,
D'un chien, d'un congre & d'un carpel
De six vivres & de quatre itres
Se trouvera fans autres tiltres
Quand Gieufroy Fare se demist
D'abbe du Bec & Evreux prist
Le premier jox de avril fans doute;
Dieu garde l'hostel et l'ordre toute.

Quibus omnibus, continues the Chroni-
cler, *cum dentur literæ, seu numeri*
MCCCVVVVVVIII. intelligendus est an-
nus, 1334.

Godfrey,

Godfrey, after his advancement to the bishopric, resigned his abbey of Bec; and all votes united in favor of JOHN DE GRANGER, who governed the house with much wisdom fifteen years and eight months.

In 1340, the corpse of Godfrey, his predecessor, was brought to Bec, and buried on the left hand of the high altar.

Two years after (1342) Sept. 15, John bishop of Avranches dedicated the church, and the same day consecrated the high altar and a lesser, both to the Virgin Mary. The bishop of Lisieux consecrated the altars of St. Benet, and of the apostles Peter and Paul; the bishop of Pavia those of St. John Baptist, St. Maur, St. Martin, St. Stephen the protomartyr, St. Nicholas, St. John

St. John the Evangelist, St. Agnan, St. Magdalen, and St. Honorina. This ceremony was performed in the presence of fifteen abbats, and a great number of persons of distinction. The memorial of this is renewed every year with the octave.

John de Granger, having held the abbatial chair near sixteen years, died Feb. 19, 1350. His body was interred in the Lady chapel behind the altar, over against the tomb of abbat Gilbert already mentioned, with this epitaph:

*Concilia nato Genitrix hunc alma beato;
Ponatur celis hic qui fuit orbe fidelis.*

To John de Granger succeeded ROBERT DE ROVIS, a person of profound learning. In 1356, the English ravaging Normandy, Louis de Harcourt, who
was

was governor of it, sent him orders to demolish the church of Bec, lest it should serve for a place of defence to the enemy. But, by the advice of certain persons, versed in military matters, Robert surrounded it with an entrenchment, and a wall capable of hindering the English from making themselves masters of it. That part, however, which joined to the chapter-house, with three sides of the cloister, were rased, and the revenues of the monastery applied to pay the troops. Robert did not live to see the end of this war. He died in the eleventh year of his government, and was buried in the Lady chapel behind the choir.

The critical circumstances of the nation involved in war, which desolated France, Normandy, and Aquitain, made

made it requisite to choose for abbat a person, who, besides religion, possessed a considerable share of prudence. These characters were united in WILLIAM DE BENSEVILLE, surnamed POPELIVE, who found means to preserve the monastery from the horrors of war which surrounded it. During his administration, which continued twenty-seven years, he gave the monastic habit to many persons of distinction, of whom several were elected abbats in his life-time.

He died May 2, 1388, and was buried in the sacristy, which then served as a chapter-house, because of the disorders occasioned by the war. The chronicle relates, that they had been obliged to remove thither the mill, the oven, and the granary. To that book alone
we

we owe the epitaph of this abbat here subjoined, the misfortune of the times not permitting them to erect him a tomb, and engrave it on it:

Hic jacet in tumba * G. natus Benfequevilla,
Becci qui decem & cum feptem constitit annis
Abbas; quo plures vestiret ocus hinc tres
Fiunt Abbates; ac horum Parisiensis
Unus Gauffridus, è cum † Joan de Hors Gemeticensis
Esse finit, tandem Becci fit pastor ibidem,
Electus bis, jam fieri jubet, hancque figuram
Guillermi zelo victi, telo vocis, anno
Bis septingento, ‡ sed bis sex hinc remiovento,
Luce Maii bina, cui cælos Chrifte propina.

After his death GEOFFREY HARENC, a native of Paris, succeeded. He was a person of lively genius, distinguished for his manners and skill in the canon law. Soon after his election, one Estode d'Etoudeville, monk of Fescamp, and abbat of Cerisy, turned him out of his place, and took possession of

* Gulielmus.

† Joannes.

‡ 1368.

it. He continued here two years and eight months, in which time, without regarding the distressed condition to which the war had reduced the monastery, he lavished great sums of money to entertain his relations, who frequently came to visit him. In 1390, in conjunction with his brother the bishop of Lisieux, he erected, and founded at Paris, the college of Lisieux. Being at length called to the government of the abbey of Fescamp, he carried from Bec a prodigious quantity of furniture of all kinds, and left the monastery loaded with debts; nor did he make any scruple to transfer to Fescamp the right which Bec naturally had over the college of Lisieux at Paris.

Then

Then Godfrey, who had been forced away, and had retired to Jumieges, returned to Bec, to the great satisfaction of his monks, and set himself to repair the damage which the war and the extravagance of Eftode had done to the house. He pulled down the wall which had been built round the church, to defend it from the English. He also levelled that which shut up the Lady chapel, and some other fortifications which had been made in the church, which he fitted up with beautiful windows. He set up stone pillars in the cloister, which they had been obliged to dig up and convert into entrenchments, repaired the dormitory which had served as barracks to soldiers, and added forty cells to it; and, the more effectually to secure the monastery

tery from enemies, he furrounded it with a very strong wall, flanked with fifteen towers, still stronger in proportion to the work. He likewise laid the foundation of a citadel, which was finished by his successor, who applied 20,000*l.* to this purpose. All that now remains of this fortrefs are the ruins of a tower, still visible about eight or ten feet above the ground, and the foundations of some others, with subterraneous vaults of communication. These great and expensive undertakings did not prevent Godfrey from paying off great part of the debt contracted under the administration of Estole, or repairing the farms, the abbey buildings, the mills, &c. which were falling to ruin, and recovering possession of the lands of Quevilley

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and

and others, which had been alienated.

He obtained freely of the Holy See for himself and successor, the privilege of wearing the pontifical habit, which Estole had obtained only for himself.

As he was returning from a journey to the Holy Land, which he had undertaken with several French and Norman lords, he fell into a pit, which unfortunately lay in his way, in the deserts which he was obliged to cross, and remained there three whole days, before it was known what was become of him, at the end of which time he was taken out; but he received so much hurt, that they were obliged to carry him in a litter to Padua, a city in Italy, where he died July 15, 1399. His corps rests

in the great church there, under a tomb erected by his successor

WILLIAM DES AUUILIERES, surnamed *De la Vallée*, a man of irreproachable morals, and very zealous for the welfare of his monastery. In this he followed the example of his predecessor, under whose eye he had formed himself in the office of prior, which he filled with great improvement. He bought a great house in St. James's street, at Paris, with a view to favour the students, and thither he sent such young monks as discovered a taste for the sciences. He recovered the noble fiefs of Chaumont, Fuqueret, Bisley, &c. He improved the lands, repaired the farms, repaid 200 gold crowns to John Vades (*de Vadis*) and 400 more to the Great Master of Rhodes,

which Geoffrey Harenc, his predecessor, had borrowed in his voyage to the Holy Land. He finished, by the king's order, the walls and towers begun by Geoffrey Harenc, which made Bec appear like an impregnable fortress. The walls were fifteen feet thick in the foundation, and ten feet thick at their greatest height, which, if we may believe the chronicles of Bec, exceeded those of Avignon. These walls were flanked, as before observed, with fifteen great towers placed at proper distances. There was a principal one, of which the chronicle says, *Et fuit turris majoris altitudinis & latitudinis quam sit aliqua turris in Massilia.*

This work was completed in five years, at the expence of 5000 livres
 tournois

tournois *per annum*. It is to be observed, says a worm-eaten MS. which has neither beginning nor end, that to supply the expence of building this fortress, they took off two livres tournois from the yearly allowance of each monk, so that the priest, who received ten tournois, received but eight, and the lay-brethren were reduced from eight to six, which continued during the remaining time of William's administration.

But it is a certain fact, that the vassals of Bec abbey were obliged to pay a half floren of gold for every acre of land which they held of the monastery, and that the duke of Normandy authorized the abbat to raise, as a subsidy and poll-tax, twelve deniers a month on all the tenants of the abbey.

William being at law with John de la Lande de du Theil, the latter, at the head of twelve armed men, invested the abbey, and afterwards the priories in their order, and maimed and killed all who fell into his hands, and even threatened the abbat to kill him, or burn his monastery, - if he ventured out.

At last John de la Lande being brought to a trial, and convicted of having most barbarously dismembered several monks of Bec, murdered another at St. Philbert's priory, and cut off the foot of a third, &c. was condemned to perpetual banishment by sentence passed at Paris. John took this so much to heart, that he died of grief soon after.

In 1415, Henry the Fifth, king of England, crossed the sea to Normandy,

mandy, and laid siege to Harfleur, which he carried. He marched thence to Calais at the head of a formidable army, and stopt at Terouene, where he gained the famous battle of Agincourt, the loss of which plunged the French again into new misfortunes. Normandy in particular felt all the horrors of war. In this extremity it was found necessary to put a garrison into the fortress of Bec, to defeat the designs of the enemy, who ravaged every part through which they passed, and this garrison was maintained by the monastery.

Henry V. returned home after the bloody battle of Agincourt, and after a short stay in England, came back to Normandy, and landed at Tonque. In less than six years he made himself master of all Lower Normandy, ex-

cept Mount St. Michel. The earldom of Maine could not withstand his victorious arms, and all the country round submitted to his laws. Fear had seized all minds, and all the neighbourhood of Bec took refuge, with all their effects, within the fortress of the monastery, where the necessary provisions for such numbers were made with all possible dispatch. Rules were enacted concerning the distribution of corn in the refectory, while the oven was kept in the chapter-house. All the buildings of the monastery, which stood without the enclosure of the fortress, were pulled down, *viz.* the court of the Malmaison, the houses of the almoner and the guests, Helluin's chapter-house, with many other adjoining buildings. William, who had shewn such a superiority of mind to
all

all the mortifying events which furrounded and perplexed him during the whole of his administration, at length sunk under the melancholy state to which his monastery was on the point of being reduced. He died Jan. 3, 1471, after having governed his monastery eighteen years and six months. He was buried in the middle of the choir before the steps of the altar. John de Cambray made his tomb as it appears at present, with this epitaph:

Hic jacet exemplum bonitatis, regula morum,
 Justitiæ templum, fidei vas, lux monachorum.
 Guillermus, frater quondam de Valle vocatus
 Cœnobiiq; pater Beccensis; origine natus
 Ex Emullaribus, diocœsis Lexoviensis.
 Abbas vigesimus tertius sextus, quem flebilis ensis
 Funeris exhaustit, vitalia filaq; rasit.
 Nam nixus Christo mundo migravit ab isto
 Anno milleno, centum quater addeque deno-
 Septem, tunc terra jam lucente lucerna:
 Vivat Sanctorum consors super astra polorum.

Amen.

ROBERT,

ROBERT, a native of Bec, was raised from the office of prior of N. Dame de Pre to the dignity of abbat of Bec, and received the benediction at Pontoise, with the consent of the archbishop of Rouen. He was doctor in decrees, had a great soul, and much zeal for regular observance.

The second year of his election, the duke of Clarence brother to the king of England, and his constable, having made himself master of Harcourt, came and laid siege to the fortress of Bec, which, after a vigorous resistance for above a month, was obliged to submit to the conqueror, who plundered the citadel, burnt almost the whole town, overthrew all the buildings out of the regular enclosure with the chapel of the
venerable

venerable Helluin, and seized the effects of all who had taken refuge in the monastery, as in a most secure asylum. He placed in the citadel a garrison of 140 men, to be maintained at the expence of the monks, whose revenues were stopt by order of the king. The monks being then destitute of the necessaries of life, suffered all the horrors of a civil war. Several of them fled and retired to the priories of Bec.

The French coming to the relief of the place, the English retired into the strongest tower of the citadel, whence they could not be dislodged. The king having already made himself master of Rouen, Vernon, Roche-guion, and the whole Pais de Caux, the abbat came to take the oath of fidelity

fidelity to him, and was graciously received, and sent back with the restoration of all the possessions of his monastery. After this restitution which he had obtained of the king, he set out for Bec, where he arrived on Ash Wednesday, and was received with great joy by his whole community, and forthwith installed in the usual manner. The garrison retired, and the duke of Clarence left therein a few soldiers, who were a much less burden than the former.

About this time, abbat Robert purchased a house at Rouen, named the Hotel des Fontaines, and since Hotel du Bec, which gave name to the street where it stands. This house was of great use during the wars, which harraught England, France, and especially Normandy.

The

The English, who, at the approach of the French, had retired into the great tower, called Our Lady's, broke through the wall, and sent to inform their general, who was in the neighbourhood of Bec, of the extremity to which they were reduced. He immediately sent off a detachment to their relief, which got into the fortress by the same hole which they had before made, and spread themselves on a sudden all over the monastery, killing all who came in their way. Five monks were slain in the church at the bottom of the steps of the high altar, and many wounded. They, at the same time, drove out the French, who had surprized the place after making a dreadful slaughter, and from thence they went to the church, and plundered

plundered the treasury, carrying away all the ornaments, and pulled off the silver plates that covered the tomb of the empress Matilda.

Before they left Bec in 1420, they received the king's order to raze the citadel, which they executed. The abbat, and one of his monks, suspected of having given up the fortress to the French, had been put in prison at Rouen, and were not released till after five months confinement, and being fully cleared. He returned soon after to his monastery, where all the monks, whom this storm had dispersed on every side, were again collected. At length, worn out with vexation, infirmity, and fatigue, he exchanged this life for a happier, May 14, 1430. His corps was brought from Rouen, where he

he died, and was buried in the choir of Bec on the left side of William his predecessor and uncle, with this epitaph :

*Hic jacet in loculo venerabilis atque disertus
Abbas, vocabulo cui Vallis, sicque Robertus.
Is decretorumque fuit doctor, via morum :
Auxiliante deo fratres concorditer illum
Eliciunt, in eo ponentes mentis asylum.
Unde fuit natus Becco stans hic inhumatus
Anno milleno centum quater atque trigeno
In maii mense quarto mortis ruit ense.
Quisque roget Christum quod cælis colloceſt iſtum,
Ac ſibi ſolamen ſanctorum ſentiat. Amen.*

In his place was elected THOMAS DE FRIQUE, June 19, the ſame year 1430. He was born at Bec. Pope Martin V. reſuſed at firſt to approve his election; but when he underſtood that he was a perſon endowed with the beſt qualities, and extremely fit
for

for the government of the abbey, he approved and ratified it. He received the benediction at Rouen from his archbishop, and made a long stay in that city, to avoid falling into the hands of the enemy, who would have required a considerable fine for his ransom. He resigned his soul to God, after having governed the monastery of Bec sixteen years, and was buried in the choir near abbat William des Auvilieres. The following epitaph is inscribed on his tomb :

*Isle locus tenuit corpus virtute repletum,
 Quem tellus genuit Becci Thomasque Fricanti,
 Vita claustralis florens sub regula degit,
 Subtraxitque malis, sed Christi colla subegit.
 Hic Prior electus malorum crimina textit,
 Abbas effectus digne cœnobia rexit
 Beccensisque pater vicefimus extitit ipse;
 Octavum frater addas, post occubuisse
 Anno millesimo centeno sicque quaterno.*

JOHN

JOHN III. of the name, surnamed DE LA MOTTE, born at Rouen, doctor of Canon Law, and professor in the university of Paris, succeeded Thomas de Frique. From his earliest youth he discovered signs of what he would one day be: and so early advanced to evangelical perfection.

During the suspension of arms between Charles king of France and Henry king of England, he retired at the solicitation of the city of Rouen to the first of these princes, and spoke to him with so much energy about the recovering of Normandy, that he made a brisk attack on the English, defeated them, and reduced this province under his obedience. John also, by his sovereign's order, assisted at the assembly held at Bourges, where the

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pragmatic

pragmatic sanction, and the methods of enforcing it, were debated.

In the crisis of the war he provided with prudence for the wants of the monastery; and in the sixth year of his government, which was the year of grace 1452, he died at Rouen Nov. 19. His corpse was carried to Bec, and buried in the choir near the tomb of his predecessor Robert.

His successor was GEOFFREY D'ESPAGNE, surnamed *Benedict*. He was prior of Notre Dame du Pre when he was elected. He received the benediction from the vicars general of the diocese during the vacancy of the archiepiscopal see. He took the oath of allegiance to the king of France. During the twenty-four years that he presided over the monastery of
Bec,

Bec, he behaved himself with great wisdom and prudence. He was zealous for the dedication of the house of God, paved it with stone, caused to be made a figure of Moses holding the book of the law, an eagle; and four grand chandeliers, all in copper; built a stone wall almost all round the forest adjoining to the monastery, called the Park, which is a league and a half in circuit; laid the foundation of an infirmary carried up to the height of 150 steps; the bellfrey*, which John Boucard his successor finished as it now stands; adorned with figures in relief the silver cup given by the empress Matilda weighing twelve marks, &c. He received at Bec, in 1468, Margaret queen of England, who was accompanied by

* Le beufroy.

Edward her son prince of Wales. She spent five days in the monastery, and afterwards took the road to Montfort to go to Honfleur, where she was to embark for England, and return to the king her husband, detained prisoner by Edward earl of March, who had ascended the throne of England, after deposing him.

To the venerable abbat Geoffrey, who died May 14, 1475, succeeded the commendatory abbats, of whom only Robert IV. appears to have come in by free election.

The first was JOHN BOUCARD bishop of Avranches. Louis XI. whose confessor and almoner he was, demanded the abbey for him. John obtained of the king the confirmation of the privileges and immunities of the
the

the monastery, and licence to hold two free fairs annually at Bec. The ninth year of his nomination he entertained serious thoughts of resigning his abbey in favour of John d'Aptot arch-prior of the house, who, in hope of attaining the abbatial dignity, had given to the sacristy, 1482, a chasuble and two tunics of very rich stuff, and some other ornaments; but the death of the party intending to resign, which happened 1484, disappointed the prospects of John d'Aptot, who lost the money he had sent to Rome, to obtain the confirmation of the resignation.

The monks, who by this death recovered their full right, assembled to choose themselves an abbat; and all the suffrages united in favor of

ROBERT DE ROUEN, a very religious person, who afterwards gave proofs of a lively and solid piety. He resigned his charge to WILLIAM GUERNI, who was also of Rouen, reserving to himself however a handsome pension, with the right of collating to all the benefices in the gift of the monastery; but shortly after, *viz.* Jan. 22, 1492, he happily closed his career. Guerni, after the example of several of his predecessors, contributed largely to the decoration of the church. He gave four great columns of Cyprian copper, elegantly wrought, to place on the sides of the high altar, which he had before adorned with gold plates. He likewise gave a silver shrine for the reliques, and a gold box weighing three marks set with precious stones; six
silver

silver cups, and a superb lamp of the same metal, to be hung up in the Lady-chapel.

He resigned his abbey to John Ribaud his nephew; but Louis XII. who wished it for John Aurele archbishop of Toulouse, opposed his claim. The king dying soon after, Leo X. approved the resignation of Guerni, and it had its effect.

JOHN RIBAUD accordingly succeeded his uncle, and finished the porch of the church, which the latter had begun. In the mean time Guerni had a stroke of apoplexy, which carried him off. He was buried in the choir the day after his death, which happened April 5, 1514, under a tomb of stone adorned with marble and copper-plates. His successor held the

abbatial chair but three years after his death. He was obliged to resign in 1517, to make way for cardinal de Boise, in favour of whom Francis I. had disposed of it. THEOBALD thus dispossessed of his dignity, meditating vengeance for this injustice, took his measures so well, that he carried off in the night, unperceived, a considerable quantity of gold and silver plate from the treasury, sacred vessels, and tapestry, and transported the whole to the abbey of Valmont, of which he had the government.

ADRIAN GOUFFIER, Cardinal de Boise, after two years administration, was removed from Bec to Fescamp 1519.

JOHN AURELIUS, then bishop of Orleans, afterwards archbishop of Toulouse,

louse, and lastly cardinal Longueville, filled the abbatial chair after him. He was of a mild character, and well versed in ecclesiastical matters. He made some presents to the sacristy, and died 1533, during the council of Nice, at which he assisted.

JOHN DE VENEUE, bishop of Lisieux, and afterwards cardinal, a person of great experience in affairs, being at Bec with Francis I. whose almoner he was, was received for abbat there the following year, 1534. The king spent the feast of St. George at Bec, and came there again 1539, with queen Eleanor his consort. John going to Maule, a little town of Picardy, between Guise and Laon, was seized with a violent fever, which brought him to the grave. His body was removed

moved to Lisieux, and buried in the great church; but his heart was brought to Bec, and buried under the high altar, 1543.

JAMES D'ANNEBAUD had the abbey in commendam the same year, 1543, by the influence of admiral Annebaud his brother, who was in high favour with Henry II. He took orders at Bec, was consecrated bishop, and invested with the purple by the legates of pope Paul III. Under his administration, in 1552, a violent storm threw down the spire, which beat down almost the whole nave. This abbat did much harm to the monastery. He cut down great part of the wood in the park, and sold it for £.25,000, which he applied to his own use, broke up the great bell, and sold it piece-meal in
different

different places, and when he had spent all retired to Rouen, to the Hotel de Bec before-mentioned, where he died in the course of the year 1558, after 15 years enjoyment of his abbey.

FRANCIS, Cardinal de Tournon, succeeded him, and was succeeded by LOUIS DE LORAIN cardinal de Guise.

In the life-time of the latter the defenders of the reformed religion overrun in a tumultuous manner the whole province of Normandy, plundered and ravaged the monastery, and left every where marks of their fury and fanaticism. The Roman Catholics, on their part, massacred, in an unchristian manner, all the reformed who fell into their hands, so that the fields were covered with the bodies of a great number of unhappy victims,

6

which

which barbarous superstition and fanaticism offered to the God of Peace. The year 1563, was more particularly witness to these depredations. The victorious English spared nothing. The most sacred places did not escape profanation. They plundered this noble church of its ornaments, laid sacrilegious hands on the sacred vessels, carried off the reliques that were kept in the richest shrines, pursued the monks to the foot of the altar, and made a dreadful slaughter of them.

Among the reliquaries carried off by the enemy from this church, was a silver cross set with precious stones, weighing above thirty marks; another, containing the reliques of several saints, accounted extremely valuable; and a third of silver of a considerable weight, with

ox, weighing
 with diamonds,
 nship.
 abbat, after
 life in 1563.
 chevalier of
 part of the
 at St. Denis
 inated in his
 Vic, son of
 France. He
 598, and was
 of Auch. In
 gation of St. Maur
 Bec. We shall here
 of this history, and
 idgement of the most
 ents that have happened
 oduction of the congrega-
 present time, when we
 have

have related all that concerns Bec in its antient state, and have laid before the reader the names of a few of those whom their birth, learning, or munificence, have distinguished, and rendered dear to us. As for those who have had the happiness of being profest here, their number is too great to find a place in so concise a history as this; nor would such a catalogue be agreeable to the reader. We enter into these details purely to remove all occasion of complaint of omission, and well knowing that the reader will always have it in his power to pass over whatever does not suit his taste. The names of the principal monks are as follow :

William Girouis, descended from one of the most illustrious families of Normandy,

Normandy, had served his country with Honour, and given proofs of great courage before he devoted himself to God in the monastic habit.

Hugh, count de Meulan, and many noble knights, followed his example, and enlisted themselves under the discipline of St. Helluin.

Olivier, a powerful lord, son of William Talvan, embraced the monastic state under Anselm in an advanced age, and passed the rest of his days in the practice of every Christian virtue.

Richard, son of Richard count du Pin, was taken from Bec by Henry king of England, to govern the monastery of Ely in his kingdom.

Viger, cousin to Richard, quitted the spoils of the world, to put on those
of

of the servants of God, and lived near forty years in the solitude of Bec, under the abbats William I, and Boson.

Nigel d'Aubigné was equally illustrious for his nobility and probity.

Robert de Beaufay, touched with the virtuous examples which he saw in the monastery of Bec, applied for the monastic habit, and his advanced age was not made an objection to his being appointed first prior of the monastery of Meulan. William and Richard his sons followed his example.

Hugh de Gournay, a noble and gallant knight, set an example to his brethren in the exercise of every virtue.

Baudric,

Baudric, a man of high birth, was appointed prior of Bec, by Anselm, who addrest many letters to him, as may be seen in his works.

Hugh, son of Baudric, recommendable for the purity of his manners, was nephew to the venerable Helluin, founder of the monastery.

William Crispin, of an illustrious family, gave all his estates to the monastery, and died as holily as he had lived.

William Mallet, a knight of great eminence, spent the whole of his short life in purifying his heart, and rendering it a proper habitation for Jesus Christ.

Osbern, a pious and learned monk, as may be seen by his writings, and Hugh count de Montfort his friend,

G renounced

renounced the world together, to wear the livery of Christ.

Helluin, Maurice, and Gondulph, whom Anselm carried with him to Canterbury, were men of distinguished merit.

Bazilis, widow of Hugues, Amfrida her niece, and Eve widow of William Crispin, came to place themselves under the direction of the abbats of Bec, and received the veil from William archbishop of Rouen. They lived in a house near the inclosure of the monastery, and practised as much as they could the monks manner of life, devoting themselves to fasting and prayer, and employing their hands in various works. After having been the good favour of Christ on earth, they went to heaven the same year, to receive the crown of righteousness.

I pass over in silence Guido, Maurice, Foceraud, Gautier, John, and Godfrey, whose praises Anselm celebrates in his epistles; Gilbert and Renaud brothers of Boson 4th abbat, Erme; Tuold, who from bishop of Bayeux turned monk under William 3d abbat; Robert de Neufbourg, descended from the counts of Meulan, lieutenant of Normandy; Hauris de Monbaston, John de Burgenville, Robert de Rouen, John le Marchand, James le Febre, Peter Bailleul, John de Cambrenie, Henry de Neuville, heretofore grand vicar and official of Bayeux, Godfrey, Richard de Champion, &c. all, or most of them, monks respectable for their birth, or recommendable for their eminent virtues.

Among the monks who were advanced to the dignity of abbats, and amount to forty-six or fifty, may be reckoned Lanfranc, a man distinguished for the purity of his manners, and his profound knowledge. He was the first abbat of St. Stephen at Caen. Anselme abbat of Bec, Gondulph of Rochester, Radulph of Bel, John Romain of St. Saviour near Têlésie, Michael, Henry, Osbern, Bernard, Vincent de Rouen, Radulph, William, Durand, and le Normand, were all abbats of Ibre.

William abbat of Gretin, and afterwards of Pontoise; Albold of St. Edmund's Bury in England; Robert de Blangie of St. Evroult: William, a very learned man, was abbat of Corneille, and had for successors there Durand, Stephen,

THE ABBEY OF BEC. 85

Stephen, Hardin prior of St. Yme, Henry, and Benedict.

Roger, prior of Pre, was abbat of St. Evroult; as were William and Henry of St. Michael du Tréport; Robert and Bernard of the abbey of Mount St. Michel; Roger, Godfrey, and Guarin, of Leffay; Gilbert of Conches; Ralph of Lyra; John de Boulay, of Ceriffy; Henry of Bel; Robert of Breteuil; Richard of St. Werburgh near Chester in England; Richard, son of Richard de Clare, of Ely; Alelm of Eaucin; Lanfranc, nephew to Lanfranc archbishop of Canterbury, abbat of St. Wendrille; Hugh abbat of St. Austin, Canterbury; Gilbert abbat of Colchester; Roger, a man of real merit, and in high esteem with the kings of France and

G 3 England,

England, was abbat of Jumieges; Godfrey Harenc succeeded him; William abbat of St. Catherine near Rouen; Joscelin and William, abbats of Bernay, as was Emeric of St. Ouen at Rouen.

Monks of Bec who became bishops :

Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, who had refused the archbishopric of Rouen.

Anselm succeeded him.

Theobald was also archbishop of that see.

Roger refused that dignity.

Hubert was advanced to it in his stead.

Fulco was bishop of Beauvais.

Ernostus or Ernulf, of Rochester.

Gundulph succeeded him there.

William

William de Bonneame was nominated to the bishopric of Rouen, and governed with discretion.

Richard de Beaufay filled the see of Avranché.

Godfrey that of Evreux, and was succeeded by

Richard de St. Leger.

William was bishop of Landam.

We have already remarked, in the course of this little history, that, soon after the foundation of Bec, Lanfranc settled there a school, which subsisted a long time after, and produced a number of persons, who by their learning and piety enlightened and edified the church, and many of whom attained to the first dignity. The principal of these were,

Pope Alexander II, and his two nephews.

Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury.

Guimond, archbishop of Aversa, a person well versed in polite literature; and, by Oderic, placed among the cardinals.

Yvo, bishop of Chartres, one of the most learned men of his time.

Ernostus and Gundulph, both bishops of Rochester.

Turolde bishop of Bayeux.

Fulk bishop of Beauvais.

Gilbert Crispin abbat of Westminster.

William abbat of Corneille.

And many others, both lay-brethren and monks, as it is easy to see by Anselm's epistles: for, as we have before seen, Bec was from its foundation a famous college, whither most people
of

of condition sent their children to be instructed by Lanfranc, who, had formed a library of books of philosophy and divinity. In Helluin's time there were 100 scholars. But besides those who had studied in this school, Bec was also full of learned monks; such as,

Gilbert Crispin, who for genius and learning may be compared to the greatest men of his time. He wrote commentaries on the scripture, works of divinity and morality, and the life of Helluin.

Milo Crispin, a historian much esteemed in his time. He wrote many lives, particularly those of Lanfranc, William I, Boson and Letard, abbats of Bec.

Boson, Theobald, and Letard, also abbats of Bec, and very learned men.

Roger,

Roger, the seventh abbat, was professor of law in England, and composed nine books on the study of the law.

Robert Dumont, author of the appendix addressed to Sigebert, wrote near 140 volumes, of which we have left only his Appendix, and a Chronicle, with the history of Mount St. Michel, a Commentary on St. Paul's epistles, the Acts of Councils, and some few other works. He assisted, by order of pope Alexander III. at the council of Tours, where he was chosen to address duke Geoffrey. Stephen, bishop of Rennes, who wrote his elogium in verse, speaks of him as well versed in all the sciences.

Philip, bishop of Bayeux, composed also 140 volumes, with which he enriched the library at Bec.

Robert

Robert de Roues, Robert de Bec, and John de la Motte, all three abbats of Bec, were doctors in law, and the latter had professed at Paris with applause.

Francis Carré and master Henry de Neuville professed divinity a long time, and were esteemed very learned, as was also James Lambert, &c.

We should be wanting in gratitude, if, after reciting the names of those who have rendered Bec illustrious, we should not recall to remembrance with pleasure those who by their liberality founded and enriched this abbey.

These are the venerable Helluin, who founded it, and endowed it with his estate at Bonneville, &c.

Richard son of earl Gilbert and Rohais his wife, who gave many lands, and their estate at Hemeccléffe.

Gilbert

Gilbert de Brionne, descended from the counts of Auc, who, at the foundation of the monastery, assisted the venerable Helluin with his advice and money, and gave many lands to the church.

Hugh count de Meulan was one of the principal benefactors; among whom are, Nigel d'Aubigné.

Earl Roger.

Gilbert de Clare.

Beaudric.

Walleran earl of Meulan.

Queen Matilda wife of William the Conqueror; and Henry her son, king of England.

The empress, mother of Henry II. king of England.

The illustrious house of Crispin.

William Mallet.

Robert

Robert de Montfort.

Froger bishop of Sées.

Luke bishop of Evreux, and his chapter.

Hugh de Gournay.

Matthew earl of Beaumont.

Hughes d'Euremode.

Robert de Neufbourg, dependant on the earl of Meulan and his illustrious family, which distinguished itself by its liberalities.

Thomas Bardon and Robert earl of Meulan, who willed that all the lands of the monastery in their dominions should be free from all custom and exaction, and from the tolls in the jurisdiction of Ponteaudemer.

His sons Waleran, Robert, and Hugh, confirmed this privilege, and added that the wines and other necessaries

faries of life shall pay no toll on the river.

Simon d'Aneth, Matthew de Monmorency, Guido Malvesin, William de Vernon, Almeric viscount Mesev, granted the same privilege throughout their dominions.

We must not omit here the kings of France and England, and the dukes of Normandy, particularly Philip II. St. Louis; Philip III. and IV. Charles VII. Louis XI. kings of France; Henry I. Stephen, John, Henry V. kings of England; who confirmed all the donations made to the abbey.

Mary d'Espagne countess of Alencon and Estampes, François de Beauplan, Anthony de Fiereville, Hugh de Viviers,

Viviers, Flora de la Potterie*, and Mahiel du Bose, made great presents to the monastery.

Nor must we forget the most remarkable interments, sepulchral monuments, &c. In the chapter-house were buried the following abbats :

The venerable Helluin, whose superb tomb, near eight feet long and two feet high, is in the centre.

William III.

Boson IV.

Letard VI.

Roger VII.

* This family is totally extinct, and all their property is passed to strangers, together with the estate of their name, three quarters of a league from Bec, to the N. E. of Pont au Lou, on the top of the hill.

Hugh

Hugh XI.

William XII.

Henry XIV.

Robert XV.

John XVI.

Peter XVII.

Ymer XVIII.

All these tombs are of stone, and have a cross or crossier in relief, but no epitaph, any more than those of

William de la Mare.

William de St. Ymer.

William de St. Clodoard.

John de Bec.

Richard de Bures.

James de Rouen, alias de la Motte.

William Moran de Bourgeville.

John d' Aptot.

Frances de Vilmontez.

At

At the upper end of the chapter-house are figures in relief, with dogs at their feet, representing

Henry de Neufbourg.

Margaret de Neufbourg, wife of Amauri de Meulan:

Another Henry de Neufbourg;

Joan de Livaro, wife of Robert de Neufbourg; and Margaret de Livaro.

On the pavement were placed the arms of all the persons buried in the chapter-house, according to the custom of that time; but too few remain at present to be described with certainty.

The heart of Mary d'Espagne countess d'Alençon and d'Estampes lies in the Lady chapel, with the bodies of Floquer Marshall, born in Normandy, and several abbats, as Gilbert XIX, John XXI, and Robert XXII.

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In the middle of the choir are magnificent monuments for the abbats,

William des Annilere.

Robert de la Vallee.

Thomas de Trique.

John de la Motte.

Godfrey d'Espagne.

Robert de Rouen.

William Guerin.

On the left hand of the high altar rests Geoffrey Fae or Fare, bishop of Evreux from A. D. 1335 to 1340.

Under the high altar is the heart of John le Veneur, cardinal, and bishop of Lifieux.

Before the same altar, in the middle of the sanctuary, rests the body of Matilda, wife of the emperor Henry IV. She was buried in 1167, before our Lady's altar; and in 1282, as they were lengthening

THE ABBEY OF BEC. 99

lengthening the church, they found her corpse, before the place of the high altar, buried in an ox's hide. They erected to her memory a tomb of copper, whereon was engraved this epitaph :

D. O. M.

Et æternæ Augustæ Matildis memoriæ :

Quæ

Ortu magna, Viro major, sed maxima Partu,

Hic jacet, Henrici filia, sponsa, parens.

Quippe quæ extitit

Henrici I. Anglorum Regis filia nobilissima,

Henrici IV. Romanorum Imperatoris

sponsa augustissima,

Godefridi Pulchri Andegavensium comitis

Posteriore thoro præclara conjux;

Dè quo facta est

Henrici II. Angliæ Regis Parens illustrissima.

Erga Beccensem ecclesiam impense munifica,

Quam dum viveret thesauris suis ditavit,

Et post obitum

Sui corporis voluit esse custodem.

Felicem vitæ sortita est exitum iv Idus Septembris,

An. D'ni MCLXVII.

In monumentum æternum posuerunt monachi

Beccensis Congr. Sti Mauri

An. 1684.

H 2

William

379184B

William de Benfville lies before the altar of St. Nicholas, in what is now called the vestry.

The noble and potent lady Joan de Tilly, wife of John baron de Ferrieres, lies in the chapel of St. John Baptist, without an inscription. Richard de Beaufay and Heribert, both monks of Bec, and afterwards bishops of Avranches, are buried in the church, but the exact spot is not known, any more than that of Hugh de Nonan bishop of Coventry.

In the left aisle of the church is buried lady Mabire Vitevaux, a woman of high nobility.

At the entrance of the church lies Joan de Tibouville, and by her side another Joan de Tibouville.

William Crispin lies near the cloister door, and Eve his wife, and Wil-

• liam

liam his nephew by him. All these tombs are without epitaphs.

Francis d'Aulne, lord of Beauplan, is buried in the chapel of St. Stephen, which was decorated at his expence, and has the following epitaph :

Cy gift noble homme François d'Aulne, Ecuyer, Seigneur de Beauplan, en son vivant premier Capitaine et Commandant dans la Ville du Havre de Grace, lequel apres un long service rendu a sa Majesté, s'étant retiré dans cette Abbaye, y a vecu avec une pieté exemplaire, et a fait faire cet Autel. Il a remis son ame à Dieu le 2d jour de Fevrier l'an 1673, et de son age le 84.

Requiescat in Pace. Amen.

In the same chapel is the heart of
Mary de Brancas, with this inscription :

Cy repose le cœur de tres haute & très
puissante Dame, Madame Marie de Brancas,
Epouse du tres haut & tres puissant seigneur
Monseigr Louis de Brancas, Duc de Villars, Pair
de France :

Au milieu d'une cour l'exemple ne l'a pas seduite.
Ses mœurs ont été respectez de la medifance qui
epargne si peu la Vertu.

Le choix qu'il a fait pour son cœur de ce lieu saint
montre assez que
dans le séjour même des vanités, elle les a toujours
meprisées. •

Chrétiens, puisqu'elle a glorifié Dieu aux yeux
des pecheurs,

Priez qu'il la couronne dans la compagnie des
saints.

Cette illustre dame est morte a Paris, le 27 Aout,
1731, âgée de 78 ans & 11 mois.

Oliver

Oliver Heusté de Lamberville lies in the Lady chapel facing the door of the choir on the gospel side. His epitaph is on a tablet of fine black marble set in the wall over against the altar of the said chapel:

D. O. M. et Æ. M.

Nobilis religiosique viri

D. D. Olivarii Heustè de Lamberville :

Qui sanctæ regulæ jugum portaturus ab adolescentia,

Huc vixdum decennis advolavit

LXX annorum in Benedictina palæstra stadium

Pie, perseveranter, feliciter, emensus,

Magnique Prioris officio,

Ad quod etiam unum junior meritis exigentibus
assumptus fuerat,

Per triginta annos strenue functus,

Reformatos ordinis ascetos excepit, fovit, adjuvit ;

Antiquioris disciplinæ commilitones rexit, correxit,
instruxit :

Multis tandem ad ornatum S. Basilicæ

Collatis donariis,

De omnibus benemeritus, desideratus omnibus,

Cursum laudatissimum vitæ consummavit

Preciosa morte in conspectu Domini,

Die XXVI Feb. an. M.D.XXXVII. an. natus LXXX.

Charles Le Maire is buried in the chapel of St. Martin under a tomb of fine black marble, with this inscription :

D. O. M. & Æ. M.

Nobilis religiosique viri D. D. Caroli le Maire,
 Qui a teneris, spreto sæculo vitam acturus cœnobiticam,
 Beccense monasterium duodennis ingressus est ;
 LXXIII annorum et amplius in ordine Sti Benedicti
 spacium
 Pari virtute ac perseverantia feliciter executus
 In prioratu S. Ymesii subprioris dignitate,
 Ad quam etiam invitus evehctus fuerat,
 Per xxix annos cum omnium approbatione perfunctus,
 Ad suum tandem senex reversus est cœnobium, in quo
 Per annos aliquot soli Deo sibi que vacans,
 In doloribus quos sub vitæ finem peracutos sensit
 patientissimus,
 In pauperes & egenos quos ubique recreavit
 munificentissimus,
 Reformatis monachis de quibus bene meritus est
 desideratissimus,
 Probatissimæ vitæ curriculum absolvit preciosa
 morte justorum.
 Die mensis anni annos natus
 Et in hoc,
 Quod elegantissimo marmor curaverat exornandum
 facello, sepultus.
 Requiescat in Pace. Amen.

In

In St. Peter's chapel lies the body of Peter Beton, with this epitaph:

Cy git noble homme Pierre de Beton, en son vivant ecuyer, seigneur de Fontaine le Forest, et Cap. dans le regiment de la Marie, lequel apres avoir servi sa Majeste pendant 25 ans, se retira en cette abbaye, ou il a yecu avec une piete exemplaire l'espace de 17 ans, 11 jours, & y est mort le 1re Janvier, 1671, age de 73 ans. Il a fait faire cet autel devant lequel il a voulu etre enterre.

Priez pour le Repos de son Ame.

There were in the nave, which has been destroyed, several monuments for persons of distinction, whose very names are at present unknown, as well as those of many others, who were buried in the cloyster, and whose monuments were removed on the rebuilding of it.

These particulars may suffice to give an idea of the abbey of BEC from it's foundation

foundation to the introduction of the congregation of St. Maur under Dominic de Vic, in 1626. This abbat dying in 1661, the abbey was put under sequestration * till 1665, when the king nominated Messire JAMES NICOLAS COLLEBERT, son of M. Collebert, counsellor to the king in all his councils, inspector of the finances, and first minister of state. The king appointed to succeed him in 1707, M. ROGER DE LA ROCHEFAUCAUT DE LA ROCHEGUION. This abbat lived but ten years after his nomination to the dignity, and died at Buda in Hungary. His immediate successor was the reigning abbat Monseigneur ALEXANDER LOUIS DE BOURBON CONDE, prince of the blood, count de Clermont. Nothing remarkable happened during

* *En œconomat.*

the administration of these four abbats. Proceed we therefore to give a short account of the decoration of the church, which is the principal and almost the only object worthy the attention of the lovers of venerable antiquity; and to the print of the out-side of this structure prefixed to this work we shall add all that can contribute to give a just idea of its interior ornaments.

This church, built about the middle of the thirteenth century, or a little after, may compare with those master-pieces of Gothic architecture, which will be the admiration of future ages for their delicacy and proportion. The monks of the congregation of St. Maur have been at a considerable expence to adorn what remains of this august church, whose nave was demolished by the fall of
the

the great tower, as was before related. They have paved the sanctuary with black and white marble; and covered with the same materials the ten chapels which surround them, and are designed by William de la Tremblaye, monk of Bec, one of the most ingenious designers of his time. He gave also the design of the high altar and screen, which is much admired by connoisseurs,

The altar, which he has executed himself, consists of eight large columns of jasper, with bases of bronze gilt, and many other ornaments in marble. The tabernacle is covered with different pieces of marble, united with great art, and extremely precious; and a little above is the figure of the infant Jesus in beautiful white marble, having on each side of him

I

kneeling

kneeling statues large as life of the Virgin and St. Joseph.

The screen, of which the design and figures are by the same hand, is entirely composed of the finest and rarest Italian marbles. It is adorned with two marble columns, and four jasper pilasters, whose bases are of white marble, and their capitals of white stone well chosen; the whole according to the proportions of the Composite order, except the frize, which is formed of triglyphs of white marble veined: the metopes are of jasper, charged with the figures of several pieces which were in the temple of Solomon. In the centre metope is the ark of the covenant, and the table of the shew bread, with the altar of incense, placed alternately with the emblems

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emblems of the four Evangelists. On the tympanum of the frontispiece, which is of jasper, are the figures in mezzo rilievo of our first parents Adam and Eve, at the foot of the fatal tree bewailing their sin. This tree, with the serpent, Adam and Eve, and all the other figures in the metope, are of a metal composed of lead, tin, and copper, the whole properly gilded with unpolished gold. On the cornice is a balustrade of jasper, as well as the acroterion, on which is placed the figure of a great crucifix, esteemed a master-piece of beauty, with the figure of the Virgin and St. John. In the middle of the whole is a handsome iron gate, ornamented in a good taste, of a light and airy style, and delicate workmanship; the ornaments

THE ABBEY OF BEC. in

ments gilded with unpolished gold. This gate is set off by a frame of marble of the small Italian vein, made of three pieces, which is uncommon, because of its height, which is twelve feet and a half. On each side of this door are two figures of St. Benedict and his disciple St. Maur, on marble pedestals composed of several pieces, and each adorned with two pilasters of jasper, their impost and archivolt of marble, with a border of the small Italian vein. The bottom of the niches of the two statues, which are hollowed in squares, is of the finest blue turquoise marble. On each side, and fronting the sanctuary and presbytery, are two large grates or balustrades, whose workmanship is much admired.

As to the chapter-house, it was built at a time when science and taste were in in their infancy: it is spacious and lofty, but of heavy Gothic.

APPEN-

A P P E N D I X.

Nº I.

Concordia inter abbatem et conventum
de Becco, et abbatem et conventum
de Baukvill*, pro decimis in Bareby-
ri†. Ex orig. penes T. Aftle, arm.

‘**O**MNIBUS hec visuris. Abbas
et conventus de Becco, salt’ in
Domino. Noveritis quod cum causa
verteretur auctoritate apostolica coram
. . . priore sancte Margarete Merle-
berg’. iudice a domino papa delegato
inter nos per fratrem Guill’m de Gine-
vill tunc temporis procuratorem nos-
trum in Anglia generalem ex una

* S. George de Bauquerville, or Banguerville,
in Normandy. See Dugd. Mon. Ang. II. p. 951.

† Now called Barbury, in the hundred of Sel-
keley, Wilts.

parte; et . . . abbatem et conventum sancti Georgii de Bauk'vill' per fratrem Lucam de Boyvill tunc temporis procuratorem eorum similiter in Anglia generalem ex altera; tandem sospita fuit questio in hunc modum. Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos littere presentes pervenerint, frater A. dictus prior sancte Margarete Merleberg' iudex a domino papa delegat. salutem in domino. Noverit universitas vestra quod cum verteretur causa coram nobis auctoritate apostolica inter . . . abbatem et conventum de Becco per fratrem Will'm de Ginevill tunc temporis procuratorem eorum in Anglia generalem litigantes ex una parte: et abbatem et conventum sancti Georgii de Bauk'vill' per fratrem Lucam de Boy'vill tunc temporis procuratorem

rem

rem eorum similiter in Anglia generalem litigantes ex altera, super decimis provenientibus tam majoribus quam minoribus de dominico quod dicti monachi de Bauk'vill' habent in villa de Barebyr, que sita est infra limites parochie de minori Okeborn, cujus personatus dicti monachi de Becco optinent, quas ratione ecclesie prefate dicebant de jure communi ad se pertinere; et aliquamdiu processum fuisset in causa, tandem inter dictos procuratores super dictis decimis, tam majoribus quam minoribus, ita convenit, quod dicti monachi de Bauk'vill' prefatis monachis de Becco singulis annis nomine dictarum decimarum in perpetuum solvent apud Okeborn majorem viginti solidos sterlingorum terminis

in futuris annotatis viz. infra octave beati Michaelis decem solidos, et infra octave purificationis beate Marie alios decem solidos. Quod si dicti monachi de Bauk'vill^a in solutione dicte pecunie in aliquo suorum terminorum facienda cessaverint, nomine pene solvent dictis monachis de Becco pro singulis defalcationibus dimid' marchae, qua commissa et soluta nichilominus salva sit petitio debiti principalis. Salvis insuper dictis monachis de Becco fructibus ejusdam acre in perpetuum, quos de dicto dominico percipere consueverunt. Et pro prefate solutione pecunie dicti monachi de Bauk'vill^a a prestatione omnium decimarum, tam majorum quam minorum de dominico predicto provenientium in perpetuum immunes remanebunt. Renunciavit
insuper

ous impe-
 ram dele-
 imis pre-
 ia obser-
 am nobis
 expresso
 cessoribus
 a reserva-
 omnibus
 ib', et aliis
 de minori
 ata terre de
 confuevit.
 ibus decimis
 rovenientibus
 co, quas antea
 ipere confueve-
 memoriam pre-
 confimili signum
 nostrum,

nostrum, una cum signis dictorum procuratorum, eis mutuo committendis apposuimus. Datum Anno Gracie M. cc. quinquagesimo secundo quadam auctoritate presentium confirmamus. Datum anno domini M. cc. quinquagesimo tertio."

The seal of the abbey appendant to this deed represents the Virgin and Child and on the reverse the head of Herluin the founder and first abbot, with a crozier; circumscribed . . . HERLVINVS PRIMVS ABBAS BECCI; the first word lost. The other two seals had HERLVINVS ABBAS: reverse the figure of a religious with a pastoral staff and book; and on his right hand a fleur de lis, the arms of France. See the plate.



ly/



Nº II.

Ex Aspilogia Johannis Anstis, MS. in
bibliotheca T. Astle, arm. Nº 442. b.

“Sciant presentes et futuri, quod ego
Robertus comes de Ferrariis relaxavi
penitus et quietum clamavi, pro me et
heredibus meis, ecclesie beate Marie
de Becco et monachis ibidem Deo ser-
vientibus, in liberam, puram, et per-
petuam elemosinam, totum jus et cla-
mum quod habui, vel habere potui,
in manerio dictorum monachorum de
Aderefton, cum omnibus suis perti-
nentiis, sine aliquo retenemento de
cetero michi vel heredibus meis. In

cujus rei testimonium presenti scripto
figillum meum apposui.



Dugdale (Warwickshire, p. 779, 780.) says, the head represents the earl's own face ; but it is rather an antique gem, such being frequently used by our ancestors.

N° III.

N° III.

Bundell' de Prior' Alienig' in Turri
London.

Ricardus Dei gr'a, Rex Angl' et
Franc', et D'nus Hib'n', Ven'abili
in X'po P'ri J. eadem gr'a, ep'o Bathon'
et Well', sal't'm. Quia, quibusdam
certis et urgentib' causis nos specialiter
moventib' &c. Dat' apud Westm' xx
die Septembr' anno regni n'ri octavo,
&c. (1384.)

Responso Joh'is [Harewell*] ep'i
Bathon', int' al'.

Abbas de Becco in Norman' Alienig-
en', cujus nomen ignorat'†, est p'ben-

* He was bishop of Bath and Wells from 1366
to 1386.

† His name however was William de Bensville
alias Popelive, elected 1317, died 1388. See p.
44, 45.

darius

parte; et . . . abbatem et conventum sancti Georgii de Bauk'vill' per fratrem Lucam de Boyvill tunc temporis procuratorem eorum similiter in Anglia generalem ex altera; tandem sospita fuit questio in hunc modum. Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos littere presentes pervenerint, frater A. dictus prior sancte Margarete Merleberg' iudex a domino papa delegat. salutem in domino. Noverit universitas vestra quod cum verteretur causa coram nobis auctoritate apostolica inter . . . abbatem et conventum de Becco per fratrem Will'm de Ginevill tunc temporis procuratorem eorum in Anglia generalem litigantes ex una parte: et abbatem et conventum sancti Georgii de Bauk'vill' per fratrem Lucam de Boy'vill tunc temporis procuratorem

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in futuris annotatis viz. infra octave beati Michaelis decem solidos, et infra octave purificationis beate Marie alios decem solidos. Quod si dicti monachi de Bauk'vill' in solutione dicte pecunie in aliquo fuorum terminorum facienda cessaverint, nomine pene solvent dictis monachis de Becco pro singulis defalcationibus dimid' marchae, qua commissa et soluta nichilominus salva sit petitio debiti principalis. Salvis insuper dictis monachis de Becco fructibus ejusdam acre in perpetuum, quos de dicto dominico percipere consueverunt. Et pro prefate solutione pecunie dicti monachi de Bauk'vill' a prestatione omnium decimarum, tam majorum quam minorum de dominico predicto provenientium in perpetuum immunes remanebunt. Renunciavit
insuper

insuper utraque pars omnibus impetratis et impetrandis tam coram delegat' quam ordinat' super decimis pre-taxatis. Ad hec autem omnia observanda que inter partes coram nobis provisâ fuerint de consensu expresso partium tam nobis quam successoribus nostris auctoritate apostolica reservamus potestatem. Salvis in omnibus decimis minoribus, oblacionib', et aliis obventionib', que vicarius de minori Ockeborn de quadam virgata terre de dicto dominica percipere consuevit. Simili modo salvis majoribus decimis de eadem virgata terre provenientius dictis monachis de Becco, quas antea jure dicte ecclesie percipere consueverunt. In cujus rei memoriam presenti scripto et ejus consimili signum

alien, but when and to whom immediately granted doth not appear. See Morant's Hist. of Essex, vol. I. p. 220.

This abbey had in England, the manors of Great Blakenham in Suffolk^a; Wivelford, or Willesford, in Lincolnshire^b; Cowick near Exeter in Devonshire^c; Hou, or Hoo, in Suffolk^d; and Lefingham in Norfolk^e; the manors and churches of Great and Little Okeburn in Wiltshire^f; the manor of Devrel in the same county^g; the manor and church of Riselip in Middlesex^h; the church and several lands at Goldcliff, in Monmouthshireⁱ;

^a See Dr. Ducarel's Anglo Norman Antiquities, p. 87; and Tan. Not. Mon. p. 511.

^b Tan. p. 268.

^c Ib. p. 92.

^d Ib. p. 554.

^e Ib. p. 342.

^f Ib. p. 599.

^g Domesday, Wiltshire.

^h Tan. Not. Mon. p. 298.

ⁱ Ib. p. 328.

part of the town of Tooting in Surryⁱ; and the church of Steventon in Berkshire^k; the priories of Willesford in Lincolnshire^l; of Okeburn in Wiltshire^m; of Povington in Dorsetshireⁿ; of Rifelip in Middlesex^o; of Wedon in the Street in Northamptonshire^p; of Steventon in Berkshire^q; of Cowicke in Devonshire^r; of Tooting in Surry^s; of Hoo in Suffex^t; and of Stoke by Clare in Suffolk^u, were also cells belonging to this abbey. William earl of Moreton in Normandy, and of Cornwall in England, nephew to William the Conqueror,

ⁱ Tan. Not. Mon. p. 537.

^k Ib. p. 15.

^l Ib. p. 268.

^m Ib. p. 599.

ⁿ Ib. p. 108.

^o Ib. p. 298.

^p Ib. p. 373. See also

Bridges's Hist. of Northamptonshire, I. p. 93.

^q Tan. ib. p. 15.

^r Ib. p. 92.

^s Ib. p. 537.

^t Ib. p. 554.

^u Ib. p. 554.

gave to this abbey his lordship of Preston, in the rape of Pevensey, in Sussex; and Hugh earl of Chester, who died in the year 1101, granted thereto his lordship of Atherston, in Warwickshire. Dr. Ducarel's Anglo-Norman Antiquities, p. 87. Hugh Gren-tesmenil a manor in England called Anna. Richard Fitz Gilbert and Rose his wife two churches, and the tithes of their manor in Ernembiri. Alice wife of Roger de Iverei a mill at Islip, co. Oxf. Ameline wife of Ernulph de Heding the manor of Comb. Robert Curcy that of Coteford. William de Rolles his lands in Ickham, (q. c. Kent?) Ralph fitz Robert fitz Anketill his manor of Derinton, c. Wilts. Emma wife of Baldwin son of earl Gilbert, &c. the manor of
Brad-

Bradford, c. Devon, and the church of St. Michael, &c. at Hennington. Milo Crispin, Swinescomb, and the tithes of the honour of Wallingford. The empress Maud, Cornell and De-verell. Richard Fitz Baldwin, Crif-tensford. Ralph de Tony, Wrotham. The earl of Leicester Chefingbury, c. Wilts. Gerard de Gurnay, Lesing-Isabel de Chandos, Membury. See the Confirmation Charter of Hen. II. Mon. Ang. II. p. 954. Comp. with Tan. Not. Mon. p. 600.

The manor of East or Great Wrotham, in Norfolk, was given to Bec abbey in Normandy, by Ralph de Toni, who held it at the Survey, from which time it enjoyed all the privileges belonging to that monastery. In the register of the abbey, (fol. 58. b.) the

K

customs

customs of the manor are entered, among which it appears, that the tenants were to pay scot and lot, by way of aid to the abbots, when they came into England, or to their procutors, if the necessities of the abbey were very urgent. They could not sell a horse-colt, nor an ox of their own bringing up, without their lord's leave, nor marry their daughters, nor go to live out of the manor, nor remove their chattels out of it without licence. They paid at every death the best beast for a heriot, or 32d. instead of it; and if any one died intestate, all their chattels were at the lord's disposition. When the harvest work was finished by the tenants, they were to have half an acre of barley, and a ram let loose in the midst of them; and if they
caught

caught him, he was their own to make merry with ; but if he escaped from them, he was the lord's : which custom is still kept at Eton college, there being a ram every year let loose among the scholars, on a certain day, to be run down by them, the original of which might come from the custom of this manor. At this time William de Hockam held 60 acres of land of the old feoffment, by 5s. per annum rent, and also 16s. rent at Rokeland, and all that belonged to the abbey of Bec, and was part of this manor. This William held all the lands and tenements that the church of Bec had in Hockam, by the rent of 17s. 2d. a year, three days work in plowing, three in mowing, and one hen ; and he and all his tenants under him

Eton

were to pay reliefs, do suit to the Halmote-Court at Wrotham, pay scot and lot, and could not marry their daughters without licence; and soon after this, in 1299, he levied a fine of the whole, when it contained 18 messuages, 275 acres of land, 11 acres of pasture, one acre of turf land, 37 acres of heath, and 14s. ob. rent, in Great and Little Hockam.

William Francolanus or Frankleyn held a carucate of land at Serepham or Shropham, and paid scot and lot, gifts and aids, and did suit to this court; and Henry de Bradekere held a tenement there by the same service. Emma de Kerbrook or Carbrook, Adam de Ockeham or Hockham, Walter Bainard, and the heirs of William Crongethorp, held a bruery,
called

called Sandwadescot, by suit of court, and the service of going to London, or elsewhere, at their own charge, on the lord's errand, and by doing the lord's and the town's service, in attending the sheriff's turns and hundred courts, to hear the king's orders; and William de Wrotham then held 60 acres of land and a messuage, which in 1240 was given by Reginald, son of Eustace de Wrotham, to Bec abbey. In 1285, the abbot held it in free alms, as parcel of Tony's Barony, and had view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, a pillory, gallows, and weyf; and thus it continued in the abbey (unless when it was in the king's hands by reason of the French wars) till 1414, 2 Henry V. when

the parliament at Leicester dissolved the Alien Priories, from which time it continued in the crown till king Henry VI. settled it on his college of Eton, at the time of its foundation, and confirmed it afterwards by his charter in 1444; and in 1460 it was re-confirmed by king Edward IV. being parcel of the possessions of Okeburne Priory. At this time the provost, fellows, and scholars, of Eton, are the lords and proprietors thereof. Blomefield's Norfolk, I. 315, 316.

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- 16 John, 1266—1273
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- 31 Robert de Rouen 1484—1492
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- 33 John Ribaud, 1514—1517
- 34 Adrian Gouffier, 1517—1519
- 35 John Aurelius, 1519—1533
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- 37 James de Annebaud, 1543—1558

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39 Claude de Lorraine, 1563—1591
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